

SPECIES

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First record of genus *Praetextatus* Distant (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae: Caystrine) from India

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ABSTRACT

Genus *Praetextatus* Distant is recorded for the first time from India. *Praetextatus typicus* Distant, 1901 is redescribed and illustrated with a key to species of this genus. The specimen was deposited in National Zoological Collection of Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

Keywords: Heteroptera, new to India, Western Himalaya, India.

1. INTRODUCTION

Genus *Praetextatus* was established by Distant, (1901) for the species *typicus* from Burma. Hsiao & Cheng, (1977) described its second species, *P. chinensis* from China. Ahmad & Zahid, (2006) redescribed *P. typicus* Distant, 1901 and provided a key to species of the genus. Presently this genus includes two species distributed in China, Myanmar and Taiwan. Zhang et al., (1992) and Rider et al., (2002) have given the additional information of the *P. chinensis* and *P. typicus*. On the basis of new specimens, *P. typicus* Distant, 1901 is first time redescribed from India and illustrated with a key to species of this genus. All the specimens are deposited in National Zoological Collection of Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The specimens were collected from the Western part of the Indian Himalayan Landscape in the states of Uttarakhand during a survey conducted in connection with a major research project entitled "Biodiversity Assessment through Long-term monitoring plots in the Indian Himalayan Landscape" during 2016. Figure were taken by a digital camera attached to a Leica stereo-zoom Microscope (Leica M205A) and SEM Zeiss. The dissected female genitalia were kept in vials containing glycerine, pinned under the specimens. The materials examined in this study are now housed in the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata (ZSIC).

3. RESULTS

Praetextatus typicus Distant, 1901

Praetextatus typicus Distant, 1901: (Holotype - female, Burma, deposited at BMNH, London).

Material examined. f, INDIA: Himachal Pradesh, Kullu District, Great Himalayan National Park, 31.792°N, 77.567°E, 2754 m, 15.ix.2016 (Kumar).

Redescription. General body features. Macropterous, body ovately oblong.

Remark: New to India.

Coloration

Body above with legs and labium dark brown, corium little pale colour, membrane fuliginous; antennae brown with basal half segment stramineous; body beneath blackish red; pronotum with two small central pale fascia on anterior disc; dorsally thickly punctuate; scutellum transversely wrinkled (Figure 1A).

Head

Anteocular region longer than posterior of head including eyes; length of antennal segments I 0.5 mm, II 1.4 mm, III 1.3 mm, IV 1.6 mm, V 1.7 mm, antennal formula $1 > 2 > 3 > 4 > 5$; labium reaching mesocoxae; length of anteocular region 0.9 mm; length of remainder of head 1 mm; width of head including eyes 3.1 mm (Figure 1A).

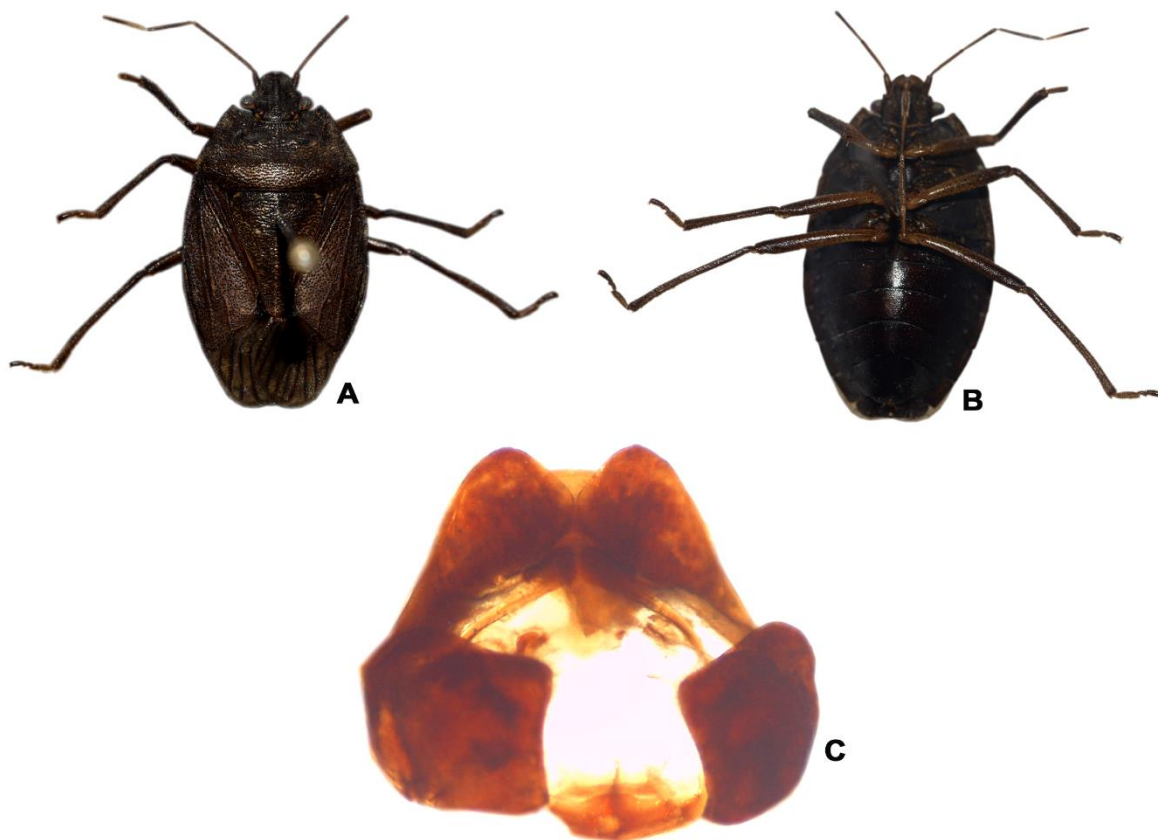


Figure 1A-C *Praetextatus typicus* Distant, 1901 A: Dorsal view; B: Ventral view; C: Female genitalia

Thorax

Pronotum distinctly more than 2x broader than its length, anterior margin distinctly wider than head width, lateral margins slightly sinuate, length 2.8 mm width 6.7 mm; scutellum slightly longer than broad with sub rounded apical lobe, length 5 mm, width 4 mm; metathoracic scent ostiole round and elongated, auricle thumb-like (Figure 2B) and have a sharp elevation (Figure 2A), not merged with surface; distance base scutellum-apex clavus 3.9 mm; apex clavus-apex corium 2.7 mm; apex corium-apex abdomen

including 2.2 mm; apex scutellum-apex abdomen including membrane 3.7 mm (Figure 1B). Rostrum passing the mid coxa (Figure 2C).

Measurements (mm)

Female: Body length 13.5; head length 1.9, inter-ocular distance 1; rostral length 6.4, length of rostral segments I: 1.6, II: 1.7, III: 1.8 and IV: 1.3; length of pronotum 2.8, length of anterior pronotal lobe 2.8, length of scutellum 5, width of scutellum 4; length of abdomen 7.3, length of forecoxa: 0.82, trochanter: 0.30, femur: 1.28, tibia: 1.25, tarsus: 0.42, claw: 0.10; midcoxa: 0.49, trochanter: 0.31, femur: 1.32, tibia: 1.28, tarsus: 0.60, claw: 0.12; hindcoxa: 0.50, trochanter: 0.32, femur: 1.48, tibia: 1.79, tarsus: 0.70, pretarsus: 0.13.

Genitalia: Female terminalia (after digestion). Lettering: lt VIII—laterotergite VIII; lt IX— laterotergite IX; sp; vlf VIII— valvifers VIII; vlf IX— valvifers IX (Figure 1C). Genital plate described in (Figures 2D-F).

Distribution: India: Himachal Pradesh. Elsewhere: Myanmar, Taiwan.

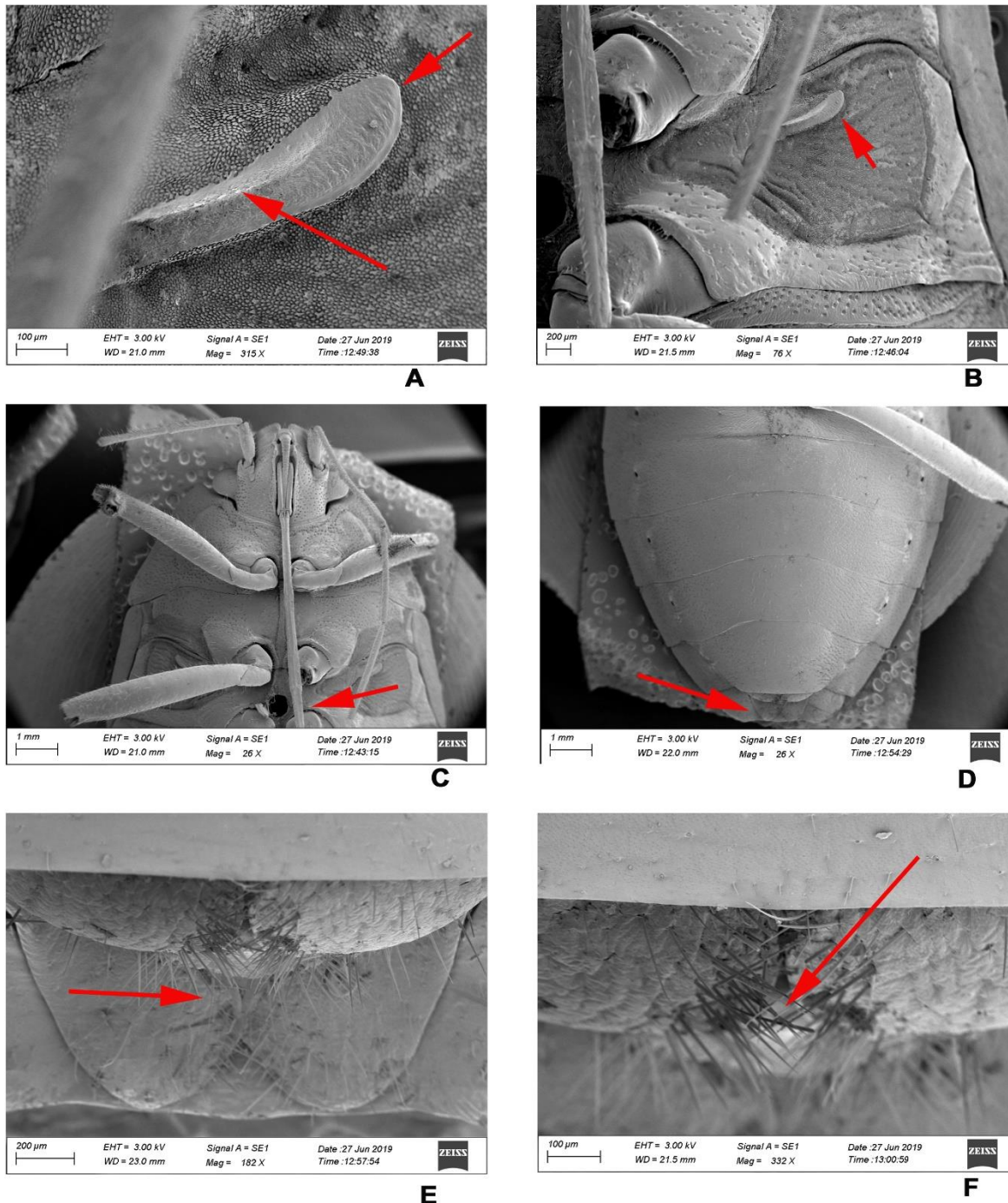


Figure 2A-F *Praetextatus typicus* Distant, 1901 A and B: Auricle; C: Rostrum; D, E and F: Female Genital segment

4. DISCUSSION

The genus *Praetextatus* Distant, 1901 reported first time from India, It will rich the faunal diversity of India with an addition to the *Hemiptera fauna* of India. More investigation needed to Indian hot spots like Indian Himalayas which are very untouched in means of Insect diversity.

Authors' contributions

All authors contributed equally.

Ethical approval

Praetextatus typicus Distant, 1901 from forest of Great Himalayan National Park was collected in the study. The ethical guidelines are followed in the study for species observation & identification.

Informed consent

Not applicable.

Acknowledgements

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Abbreviation used

BMNH: British Museum of Natural History; ZSIC: Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata; SEM: Scanning Electron Microscope.

Conflicts of interests

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interests.

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Data and materials availability

All data associated with this study are present in the paper.

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